

Message Text

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EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE - CODING HANDBOOK

REF: DRC (FDMA) N (75) 2

1. PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING TO PUHL, HEAD, SYSTEMS ANALYSIS SECTION.
 2. WE ARE VERY MUCH IMPRESSED WITH BOTH THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF WORK YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE OUR MEETING LAST APRIL. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SYSTEM
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DESIGN CONCEPTS YOU HAVE OUTLINED IN THE DRAFT MANUAL.

OUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANUAL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CONTENT. IN ORDER TO SATISFY DATA REQUESTS FROM SHAPE, SPECIAL STUDY GROUPS, NATIONAL CAPITALS, THE MBFR WORKING GROUP AND OTHER REQUESTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NFPDB SHOULD CONTAIN BOTH PEACETIME AND WARTIME INFORMATION, SUCH AS ORDERS OF BATTLE, LOCATIONS, AND STRENGTH.

B. POINTING SYSTEM. WE HAVE REVIEWED YOUR PROPOSED CONCEPT FOR DEVELOPING OBS USING AN UPWARD POINTER AND A MAXIMUM OF 18 DOWNWARD POINTERS. IT APPEARS THAT THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONCEPT IS IN THE SIZE OF THE FILE

NEEDED TO CONSTRUCT AN OB. HOWEVER, THIS CONCEPT APPEARS TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING DIFFICULTIES:

-- EVERY TIME THERE IS A SUBORDINATION CHANGE, IT WOULD REQUIRE DELETING THE OLD DOWNWARD POINTER AND POSSIBLY THE UPWARD POINTER, RESEQUENCING THE REMAINING POINTERS ON THAT RECORD, ADDING A NEW POINTER TO ANOTHER RECORD, AND RESEQUENCING THAT RECORD. THIS COULD BECOME A SOURCE OF MANY ERRORS.

-- FOR EVERY UNIT THAT HAS MORE THAN 18 SUBORDINATE UNITS, THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WOULD APPARENTLY REQUIRE THAT DUMMY UNITS BE CREATED, SO THAT NO ONE UNIT HAS MORE THAN 18 SUBORDINATE UNITS. CURRENTLY, THE U.S. ARMY HAS MANY UNITS WITH MORE THAN 18 SUBORDINATE UNITS.

-- REPORTING SUBORDINATE ELEMENTARY AND COMPLEX UNITS ON DIFFERENT RECORDS SEEMS CUMBERSOME AND COULD ALSO BECOME A SOURCE OF MANY ERRORS.

C. WE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED INFORMATION TO YOUR STAFF THAT DESCRIBED HOW AN OB COULD EASILY BE CONSTRUCTED USING ONLY A SINGLE UPWARD POINTER. INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR STAFF HAVE REVEALED THAT THE OVERALL STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH SYSTEMS ARE THE SAME. WE BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF A SINGLE UPWARD POINTER IS SIMPLER FROM BOTH A PRACTICAL AND CONCEPTUAL VIEWPOINT.
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THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF THIS SYSTEM IS THAT ALL INFORMATION ABOUT A UNIT IS FORMATED IDENTICALLY, IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS SUBORDINATION. IN ADDITION, CHANGES TO THE SUBORDINATION OF A UNIT APPEAR EASIER TO ACCOMPLISH. WE RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ADOPTING THIS UPWARD POINTING SYSTEM. PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY OF OUR RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ORGA AND UNIT FILES ASSUME THE PRESENCE OF A SINGLE UPWARD POINTER.

D. ORGA FILE: WE RECOMMEND THAT TWO ORGA FILES BE ESTABLISHED, ONE FOR THE GDP AND ONE FOR THE EDP. THE ORGA CARDS FOR THESE FILES SHOULD CONTAIN THE UNIT'S ID, ITS HIGHER COMMAND, ITS WARTIME LOCATION, AND ITS AVAILABILITY TIME IN DAYS OR HOURS. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THESE FILES BE MAINTAINED AND UPDATED BY SHAPE. PARA 4 BELOW CONTAINS A SUGGESTED LAYOUT FOR THE ORGA FILE.

E. UNIT FILE: A SUGGESTED LAYOUT FOR THE UNIT FILE S SHOWN IN PARA 5 BELOW. THE INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSED LAYOUT IS IDENTICAL BUT SLIGHTLY EXPANDED AND REARRANGED FROM THE UNIT FILE LAYOUT IN THE DRAFT MANUAL. THIS

ARRANGEMENT PLACES ON CARD A ALL ITEMS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CHANGED WHEN AN UPDATE IS ACCOMPLISHED. THE UNIT FILE WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE UNIT'S PEACETIME HIGHER COMMAND, ITS CIVILIAN STRENGTH, AND ITS WARTIME STRENGTH. WITH THESE CHANGES, THE UNIT CARD CAN BE USED TO CONSTRUCT THE PEACETIME OB OF EACH COUNTRY AND THUS ELIMINATE THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AN ORGA FILE FOR PEACETIME FORCES. THIS CHANGE WOULD, HOWEVER, REQUIRE THAT A UNIT CARD BE MAINTAINED FOR EACH UNIT RATHER THAN JUST ELEMENTARY UNITS. THIS CHANGE INCREASES THE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIT FILE BUT IT SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCES THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL UNITS, NOT JUST ELEMENTARY UNITS, COULD BE RETRIEVED OR PROCESSED ACCORDING TO THEIR READINESS, AVAILABILITY, UNIT TYPE, ASSIGNMENT CODE, OR LOCATION.

F. CODING CHANGES
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-- UNIT IDENTIFICATION - UNIT AND ORGA CARD A, POSITIONS 1-8. IN ORDER FOR NATIONAL CAPITALS TO PROPERLY SUBORDINATE THEIR UNITS THAT ARE ASSIGNED TO NATO COMMANDS, UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE NUMBERS OF NATO HIGHER COMMANDS (SACEUR, SACLANT, ETC.) NEED TO BE DEFINED.

-- SERVICE - UNIT AND ORGA CARD A, POSITION 3. RECOMMEND THAT D REPRESENT NATIONAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND UNITS, J REPRESENT JOINT, MIXED, OR COMMON SERVICE UNITS, P REPRESENT PARAMILITARY FORCES, AND S REPRESENT STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES.

-- NAME OF UNIT - UNIT CARD A, POSITIONS 17-32 AND ORGA CARD A, POSITIONS 14-29. EXPAND TO 22 CHARACTERS. THE

U.S. ARMY HAS MANY UNITS WITH A SIX CHARACTER NUMERIC IDENTIFIER IN ADDITION TO A 16 CHARACTER ALPHA NAME.

-- UNIT TYPES - UNIT CARD A, POSITIONS 34-36. MODIFY AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNIT TYPES. BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL SPECIFIED FOR UNIT TYPES IS GENERALLY BEYOND THAT REQUIRED FOR MOST ANALYSES. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE FOUND THAT MANY UNITS FALL INTO TWO OR MORE OF THE PRESENT CATEGORIES AND THAT THE LEVEL OF EFFORT REQUIRED TO CORRECTLY CATEGORIZE A UNIT IS NOT COMPARABLE WITH THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM SUCH CATEGORIZATION.

-- ORGANIZATION - UNIT CARD A, POSITION 37 AND ORG, CARD A, POSITION 30. DELETE PERSONNEL APPROXIMATION TABLE. USING THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN A UNIT IS A GOOD IDEA FOR

THOSE UNITS NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE ORGANIZATION CHAIN. HOWEVER, MANY NATO UNITS HAVE VERY FEW PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THEM IN PEACETIME. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CATEGORIZING A UNIT ACCORDING TO PERSONNEL WOULD NECESSITATE CHANGES WHEN CONSTRUCTING A WARTIME OB. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EACH COUNTRY SUBMIT TO SAS THE CODES EMPLOYED FOR THEIR OWN FORCE STRUCTURE. SAS COULD PREPARE A MATRIX DISPLAYING THIS INFORMATION. THE MATRIX COULD THEN BE INCORPORATED INTO THE CODING HANDBOOK.
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-- TOE - TABLE NUMBER - TOEP CARD A, POSITIONS 1-3. ENLARGE TO EIGHT CHARACTERS. THE FIRST TWO CHARACTERS TO REPRESENT NATIONALITY, THE NEXT THREE CHARACTERS UNIT TYPE, AND THE LAST THREE CHARACTERS TO MAINTAIN UNIQUENESS.

-- UNIT IDENTIFICATIONS OF SUBORDINATE UNITS - ORGA CARD B-C-D, POSITIONS 10-64. ALL CODES SHOULD HAVE EIGHT CHARACTERS, COMPLEX UNITS AS WELL AS ELEMENTARY UNITS.

3. WE ARE REVIEWING THE LAYOUT, CONTENT, AND CODING USED ON THE TOEP AND PERF CARDS. AS SOON AS THIS REVIEW IS COMPLETED, RECOMMENDED CHANGES WILL BE FORWARDED.

4. SUGGESTED ORGA LAYOUT.

ORGA CARD - GDP

POSITION	DESCRIPTION
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01 02	NATIONALITY
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03 03	SERVICE
04 08	UNIT I.D.
09 09	TYPE OF UPDATE
10 10	SOURCE OF UPDATE
11 12	MONTH OF UPDATE
13 13	YEAR OF UPDATE
14 21	GDP HIGHER COMMAND
22 24	AVAILABILITY IN DAYS
25 26	ORGANIZATION LEVEL
27 41	GDP WARTIME LOCATION NAME
42 48	N - S COORDINATES
49 56	E - W COORDINATES

ORGA CARD - EDP

SAME LAYOUT AS THE GDP FILE EXCEPT INFORMATION SECTIONS
TO THE EDP RATHER THAN THE GDP.

5. SUGGESTED UNIT LAYOUT

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UNIT CARD - A

POSITION	DESCRIPTION
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01 02	NATIONALITY
03 03	SERVICE
04 08	UNIT I.D.
09 09	TYPE OF UPDATE
10 10	SOURCE OF UPDATE
11 12	MONTH OF UPDATE
13 13	YEAR OF UPDATE
14 35	UNIT NAME
36 36	UNIT CATEGORY
37 39	UNIT TYPE
40 40	ORGANIZATION LEVEL
41 41	ASSIGNMENT
42 44	TOE - POINTER
45 45	READINESS
46 46	AVAILABILITY
47 53	REPRESENTATIVE PEACETIME STRENGTH
54 60	AUTHORIZED WARTIME STRENGTH
61 67	CIVILIAN STRENGTH
68 75	PEACETIME HIGHER COMMAND

UNIT CARD - B

09 10	SOIL COUNTRY
11 12	MILITARY DISTRICT

13 28 PEACETIME LOCATION NAME
29 35 N - S COORDINATES
36 42 E - W COORDINATES

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